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News Release

Clean Energy Resource Teams Request Proposals for Statewide Renewable Energy

By Melissa Pawlisch on Monday, May 8, 2006

St. Paul, Minnesota (May 8, 2006): The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), via the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and Minnesota Project, will be providing financial assistance for a limited number of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the state. There is \$5,200 available for each of the five CERT regions to fund at least two projects. CERTs regions include Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and West Central Minnesota.

"By funding these projects, the teams hope to help get citizen-led projects on the ground and provide a forum for community education about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy," says Melissa Pawlisch, CERTs coordinator.

Funding for these projects is provided through both the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources) and the Blandin Foundation.

Project funding will help support student and/or professional services. The deadline for proposals is June 1, 2006; each CERT will meet before August 1 to decide which projects to fund. Projects approved for funding must be completed by June 30, 2007, with additional rounds of funding occurring in 2007 and 2008.

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Clean Energy Resource Teams are a joint project of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Minnesota Project, the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and Resource Conservation and Development Councils. The CERTs project brings together team members from diverse backgrounds including farmers, utility representatives, state and federal government staff, academics, small business owners, members of non-profit and environmental groups as well as individuals interested in energy issues. Together they have evaluated the resources in their communities and are continuing to bring more clean energy to Minnesota.

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